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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Association for Progressive Communications

(General; 1995)

PART I. Introduction

The Association For Progressive Communications (APC) believes in a world in which all people have easy, equal and affordable access to the creative potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to improve their lives and create more democratic and egalitarian societies. APC is a global network of non- governmental organisations whose mission is to empower and support organisations, social movements and individuals in and through the use of information and communication technologies to build strategic communities and initiatives for the purpose of making meaningful contributions to equitable human development, social justice, participatory political processes and environmental sustainability.

APC's activities for the period of the report were guided by three strategic priorities:

- Promoting and facilitating strategic use of ICTs by civil society organisations (CSOs).

- Strengthening CSOs role and engagement in ICT policy processes.

- Growing and strengthening the network of CSOs promoting the use of ICTs for social justice and development.

These priorities and actions are crosscut by two additional themes: (a) A commitment to sustainable development and (b) a commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment activities are implemented in three programme areas: (1) Communications and Information Policy; (2) Strategic Uses and (3) Capacity Building and APC Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP).

Membership

APC's membership is global with members in Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and North America. At 31 December 2006, APC had 46 members in 38 countries.

Changes in Funding

During this reporting period (2003-2006), APC's funding orientation shifted from project funding to core (programme) funding. APC has been able to secure core funding from government donors, which enabled the organisation to implement most of its 2004-2008 action plan. Membership dues make up approximately 1-2% of APC's income.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

APC participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process from 2001 to 2005. APC participated in almost all of the preparatory, regional and associated events during the process. Due to space restrictions, this report only contains information about Preparatory meetings and Summits that APC participated in. A full list of WSIS related events can be found on the APC

website. Our objectives were to (a) support increased involvement of civil society (particularly civil society from the global south) in the WSIS process generally, and (b) advocate a broad human rights and gender-equality based approach to 'information society' issues.

World Summit on the Information Society 2003-2006

Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom)-2: 17-28 February 2003, Geneva (Switzerland). APC facilitated several civil society caucuses the main plenary, made verbal interventions, participated in drafting of CSO documents. Launched "Involving Civil Society in ICT Policy: the World Summit on the Information Society" (APC/CRIS).

Intersessional Meeting between PrepCom-2 and PrepCom-3: 15-18 July 2003, Paris (France) APC facilitated several civil society caucuses and the main plenary, made verbal interventions, participated in drafting of CSO documents, prepared two submissions on the Draft Declaration and Action Plan.

PrepCom-3: 15-26 September 2003, 10-14 November 2003, 5-6 December 2003, and 9 December 2003, Geneva (Switzerland). APC facilitated several civil society caucuses and the main plenary, made verbal interventions, participated in drafting of CSO documents and participated in the ICT4D Pavilion.

World Summit on the Information Society, First Phase: 10-12 December 2003, Geneva (Switzerland). APC facilitated several civil society caucuses the main plenary, made verbal interventions, participated in drafting of the CSO Declaration "Shaping Information Societies for Human Needs".

PrepCom-1: 24-26 June 2004, Hammamet (Tunisia). Participation in caucuses and drafting of CSO documents. Report produced: "World Summit on the Information Society Phase II Tunis PrepCom I Report, 23-26 June 2004", Karen Banks (APC).

PrepCom-2:17-25 February 2005, Geneva (Switzerland). APC made verbal and written interventions on the two main themes – Financing ICT for Development and Internet Governance.

APC was nominated to participate in two Working Groups convened by the United Nations Secretary General in relation to both of these themes. Three thematic papers were commissioned based on the WSIS Phase Two priorities (1) E-strategies and the World Summit on the Information Society, Willie Currie (May 2004); (2) Financing the Information Society in the South: A global public goods perspective, Pablo Accuosto (ITeM) and Niki Johnson (June 2004).

3) Internet Governance and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Adam Peake, (June 2004)

PrepCom-3: 19-30 September 2005, Geneva (Switzerland) and 13-15 November 2005, Tunis (Tunisia) APC participated in caucuses and drafted interventions.

Second Phase of the WSIS, 16-18 November 2005, Tunis (Tunisia). APC prepared substantive input on Internet Governance: "World Summit on the Information Society: APC's Recommendation on Internet Governance", by Association for Progressive Communications (APC).

16 May, Joint Facilitation Meeting on WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, and C6. Geneva (Switzerland). APC participated as joint coordinator with UNDP of these action lines.

21-25 May, Tenth Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Geneva (Switzerland) APC made verbal and written interventions. APC launched the first edition of "Global Information Society Watch".

23 May, Internet Governance Forum (IGF) consultation meeting. APC made verbal and written interventions.

United Nations ICT Task Force: APC coordinated the ICT policy group of the United Nations ICT TF during this period and participated in the following meetings:

21–22 February 2003, 4th United Nations ICT Task Force Meeting, Geneva, (Switzerland).

12–13 September 2003, 5th United Nations ICT Task Force Meeting, Geneva, (Switzerland)

25-26 March 2004: 6th United Nations ICT Task Force Meeting, New York

19-20 November 2004: 7th United Nations ICT Task Force Meeting, Berlin, (Germany)

13–15 April 2005: 8th United Nations ICT Task Force Eighth Meeting, Dublin, (Ireland)

September 2005: Civil Society in 'WSIS: A rite of passage', in United Nations ICT Task Force Series 8

Commission on the Status of Women: APC WNSP Prepared side events and participated in hi-level round tables in the following meetings:

3-14 March 2003: 47th Session, New York

1-12 March 2004: 48th Session, New York

28 February-11 March 2005: 49th Session, New York

Other meetings

APC participated in many other United Nations meetings (including meetings of regional commissions, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Beijing+10 review and the Millennium Development Goal hearings), but due to space constraints we are unable to provide information in this report.

Please see the APC website for a full list of events.

ii) **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.**

14 July 2003: APC WNSP was commissioned to write the background paper for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Expert Group Meeting on Gender Issues, Paris, France.

10-14 January 2005: Strengthening the capacity of national machineries through the effective use of ICTs, United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)/United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

1-7 June 2005: World Bank Consultancy by the APC WNSP, Indonesia.

September 2005: APC WNSP coordinator authored: 'Women 2000 and Beyond: Gender Equality in Information and Communication Technologies', compiled by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (United Nations DAW), with the collaboration of Sonia Jorge, Nancy Hafkin and Chat Garcia Ramilo, United Nations DAW, New York.

October 2005: APC WNSP coordinator authored: 'Information and Communication Technologies for Rural Development: Issues and Options', the World Bank East Asia and Pacific Region Rural Development and Natural Resources Sector. Chat Garcia Ramilo was a member of the consultant team that developed 'Engendering Rural Information Systems in Indonesia', The World Bank website.

2. European Youth Forum

(Special; 1999)

PART I. Introduction

The Mission of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) is to work to empower young people to participate actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live, and in improving the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today's world. For this reason the European Youth Forum has also a wider scope in promoting global cooperation within its Member Organizations and other Regional Youth Platforms. Independently established by youth organisations, the European Youth Forum is made up of more than 90 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations in themselves. It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests. The main principles for the functioning of YFJ and its Member Organisations are representation, internal democracy, independence, openness and inclusion.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

At the level of the United Nations Secretariat, the Youth Forum's interlocutor is the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The Objectives of YFJ towards the United Nations are: to promote and support the participation of Non Governmental Youth Organisations in the prioritised institutions working on the global level; to promote quality and concerted input to prioritised processes affecting youth; to promote the co-ordination of working at the global level; to support and develop mechanisms and spaces for dialogue between the prioritised institutions working on the global level and Non Governmental Youth Organisations; to promote the contribution of Non Governmental Youth Organisations to the implementation of the aims agreed by governments (Development Aid, Millennium Declaration, World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond-WPAY 2000).

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

1. Participation to the Commission on Social Development, New York, 10-21 February 2003: The YFJ presented a statement on behalf of ten International Non Governmental Youth Organisations and followed up the issue of the replacement of the Youth Unit with the Youth Focal Point at the United Nations Secretariat.

2. Participation to the Commission on Social Development, New York, 9-18 February 2005, in which YFJ presented the outcomes of the 10 year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth Consultative Meeting, 31 January- 3 February 2005, Coimbra, Portugal, under the agenda point "Review of the 10 years of implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth".

3. Participation to the Commission on Social Development, New York, 8-17 February 2006.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters

1. Implementation of World Program of Action for Youth (WPAY): Between 2003 and 2005 YFJ promoted the implementation at Global, Regional and National level of the WPAY. In particular YFJ promoted the involvement of Youth Organizations and National Youth Councils to submit the National Reports for the Evaluation process. A meeting to review the World Programme of Action for Youth took place in Coimbra, Portugal, from 31 January to 3 February, 2005. YFJ participated and facilitated the cluster on "Youth in Civil Society", devoted to Environment, Leisure Time, Youth Participation on Decision-Making processes, Information and Communication Technologies and Inter-generational Relations. YFJ reported the outcomes of this meeting at the 43rd session of the Commission on Social Development, New York, 9-18 February 2005.

2. Cooperation with the World Bank. Between 2003 and 2006 YFJ started a dialogue with the World Bank on Youth and Development issues. In particular YFJ participated to a first preparatory meeting convened by the World Bank and the World Organization of the Scout Movement in Athens, 22-23 March 2003. Two Conferences on Youth for Development and Peace (YDP) were co-organised by YFJ the World Bank and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (Paris, France, 15-16 September 2003 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5-7 September 2004), and YFJ was member of the Steering Group of the YDP Network between 2005-2006. The YFJ participated in this period to the drafting process of the Children and Youth Strategy of the World Bank. In 2006, the YFJ prepared and sent a contribution for the World Development Report 2007.

3. Cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation: In November 2005 the YFJ participated to the attempt to revitalise the World Youth Forum against Hunger and Poverty, in connection with the World Food Day. The process is currently on hold.

4. Cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): The YFJ participated to the Ministerial Conference "Breaking the Barriers – Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia" Dublin, Ireland, 23-24 February 2005. YFJ co-facilitated the Youth Consultation process and to nominate youth organisations to participate in the preparation process for the Conference.

5. Youth Employment Network: Between 2001 and 2004, the YFJ was involved in the United Nations Secretary General's Youth Employment Network Initiative (YEN). On 12 September 2004,

the "Youth Consultative Group" (YCG) of YEN was established and composed according to a rotational basis, the YFJ was included in the Group.

iii) Other meetings:

1. Membership, between 2003 and 2004, to the NGO Committee on Youth of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) in Geneva. The Non-Governmental Organisations Committee on Youth is a space for exchanging information about Economic and Social Council and United Nations processes and for facilitating and coordinating the work of Non-Governmental Youth Organisations towards United Nations processes and Agencies in Geneva.

2. Participation to the process towards a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) towards the CONGO, between 2003 and 2004. The process did not lead to the permanent establishment of the YAC.

3. Participation to the process towards the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) and Participation to the WSIS in Geneva, 10-12 December 2003.

4. Participation to the United Nations General Assemblies between 2003 and 2006 (3-5 October 2003, 6-13 October 2004, 10-16 October 2005, 5-11 October 2006). In relation to the United Nations General Assembly, the Youth Forum participated and co-organised the co-ordination for European Youth Delegates to the General Assembly.

iv) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for 21st century

1. 1% Solidarity Fund: YFJ devotes on an annual basis the 1% of its budget to Projects run by youth organizations in other continents which contribute to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In particular the projects were falling under the Goal No. 8 (Develop a global partnership for development), by promoting the reinforcement of the capacity of Regional Youth Platforms to act as umbrella organisations at Continental level to organise the Youth Sector of Civil Society and advocate Global, Regional and National Institutions to implement the World Programme on Action for Youth, in particular its measures which are closely linked with the achievement of the others MDGs.

2. University on Youth and Development 2003-2006. YFJ is co-organiser of the annual University on Youth and Development, organised by the North-South Centre of Council of Europe, the Spanish Government and the Spanish Youth Council. The University was organised every year on the first week of October in Mollina, Spain. Each year the University was devoted to the contribution of youth organisations to the achievement of the MDGs, through training actions and networking between young people from different continents.

3. YFJ signed in 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations concerning the implementation of the Millennium Campaign on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), committing to promote them towards the institutional advocacy and concrete projects on the field by Member Organizations.

iv) Activities in support of global principles

1. YFJ has been the promoter of a pan-European campaign on Diversity, Human Rights and Participation which was run by the Council of Europe in 29 June 2006 under the slogan "All Different, All Equal"

2. YFJ participated to the actions undertaken in the frame of the International Day against Poverty, taking place globally on the 17 December 2006.

3. HelpAge International

(General; 1995)

Contribution of HelpAge International (HAI) to the work of the United Nations 2003-2006

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

HelpAge International has a vision of a world in which all older people fulfil their potential to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives. HelpAge International is a global network striving for the rights of disadvantaged older people to economic and physical security, healthcare and social services, and support in their care giving role across the generations.

During the reporting period HelpAge International (HAI) attended the 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th sessions of the Commission for Social Development, making a statement and organising or participating in side events at each of them. These events included 'Civil Society approaches to Policy monitoring' (at the 41st session 10-21 February 2003), 'Modalities for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing' (at the 42nd session 4-13 2004) and 'Protecting and assisting older people in emergencies' (at the 44th session 8-17 February 2006).

In October, November, December 2003 and February 2004 HAI was invited as 'expert' to four follow-up meetings convened by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to review progress in implementation of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). A workshop on 'Ageing and Poverty: implications for national poverty policies and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Eastern and Central Africa', was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on 29-31 October 2003, jointly organized by UNDESA and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, in association with HelpAge International. Twelve African governments met with representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to discuss mainstreaming ageing into poverty policy.

Results from the Inter-regional Consultative Meeting on implementation and follow-up of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (Vienna, Austria, 8-10 December 2003), included a commitment of the five participating governments to mainstream ageing in all social and development policy, including the Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (PRSP) programmes and also support attention to age in analysis of MDG programmes. As a result of HAI's contribution to the Expert group meeting on modalities for review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (Malta, 10-12 November 2003) the HAI Policy Manager was invited to speak on a panel on

this subject at the 42nd session of the Commission for Social Development in New York in February 2004.

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

In the reporting period HAI participated in a number of activities with the Focal Point on Ageing in the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. In addition to those noted elsewhere in this report, from 2004 HAI had inputted to the design and development of a capacity building project with UNDESA to support governments to mainstream ageing into their development programmes.

Agreement was reached in 2003 with UNDP to write a 'practice note' on ageing. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and the Millennium Development Goals for internal circulation to UNDP programme offices. HAI was invited to co-author a note with UNDP on older people, poverty and rights based approaches which would guide analysis by UNDP staff on the importance of including ageing in order to achieve Millennium Development Goals targets.

During 2003 work with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) researchers provided valuable data on the impact of HIV/AIDS on older-headed households in Africa. Collaboration with ILO has been strengthened throughout the reporting period through the work on social protection and universal cash transfers, which has included joint presentations at the 41st, 42nd, 43rd and 44th sessions of the Commission for Social Development, participating in a UNICEF-funded review of the impact of cash transfers on orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in Southern Africa, together with Save the Children Fund, which will be used to guide UNICEF's work with national governments on targeting children and their (older) carers in future OVC work. In 2005 HelpAge International was invited into the Global Partners' Forum on OVCs and the related Inter-Agency Task Team, led by UNICEF. Also in 2005 HAI collaborated with UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Social Action (MMAS) in Mozambique on a strategy for orphaned and vulnerable children. UNICEF recognised the importance of the role of older people in child protection (as an issue for both children and older people in emergencies) and in 2004-2005 HAI carried out research funded by UNICEF in Darfur, the Sudan. In 2005 UNICEF funded and partnered with HAI in a project in Mozambique to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and older people by strengthening community awareness, community and individual coping mechanisms in Tete and Gaza Provinces.

Ongoing awareness raising and interactions with UNAIDS (both at United Nations headquarters and in the regions) meant that the UNAIDS report 2004, for the first time, referred to older people, highlighting their role as caregivers of orphans and vulnerable children and referring to HAI and its partners' work in Mozambique and Thailand. In 2006 HAI's recommendation to collect and disaggregate data by age and sex was included in a UNAIDS Secretariat paper on actions to overcome obstacles to universal access to treatment, care, prevention and support at the country level. The UNAIDS 2006 global report acknowledges that a substantial proportion of People Living with HIV & AIDS (PLWAs) are 50 years and over. UNAIDS and the World Health Organization will from now on present estimates for all adults 15 and over, rather than 15-49 as previously.

In 2004 engagement between HAI and the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific resulted in its Subcommittee on Health and Development approving a resolution focused on HIV/AIDS, recognising the role and contributions made by older people as care givers.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) designated 2005 for prioritisation of ageing and disability issues in their programming and HAI seconded a staff member to UNHCR in West Darfur to focus on the protection of older people. Contact with the Food and Agriculture organisation was developed in 2003 when HAI expertise was sought for an internal workshop on ageing and development, and further contact has been agreed through sharing of resources and expertise on food security issues. In 2005 HAI reached an agreement in principle for a Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR.

In each year of the reporting period HAI marked the United Nations International Day of Older Persons with national events in countries across the world; internationally, HAI highlighted a different theme through the website and press releases. In addition HAI featured other United Nations Days including, for example, World Day for Water, 22 March 2004: 'Securing access to water for older people and their communities in Rajasthan, India; International Women's Day, 8 March 2004; Older women and HIV/AIDS; World AIDS Day, 1 December 2003: HAI launched a report 'Forgotten Families' at the European Parliament.

4. International Council of Women

(General; 1947)

Introduction

The International Council of Women – Conseil International des Femmes (ICW-CIF) was founded in 1888 to bring women of all nations, races and cultural traditions together for a common action to improve the status of women and the well-being of the society. According to its Constitution, the objectives of the ICW-CIF are: to promote equal rights and responsibilities and equality of opportunity for all people; to work for peace in all spheres of life; to support Human Rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination; to encourage sustainable development; to work for leadership development among women; to facilitate communication and networking world-wide.

The ICW-CIF was in the first group of 39 organizations granted Consultative Status; it was promoted to General Status in 1969. Moreover, the ICW-CIF was admitted in special relationship with International Labour Organization (ILO) as early as 1960 and World Health Organization (WHO) in 1981. It supported the United Nations in the elaboration of a series of conventions, culminating in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) - convention (1979) combating all discriminations against women.

Thanks to its international network, the ICW-CIF offers its member organizations a tailored structure for the dissemination of information, decisions and resolutions adopted by the different bodies of the United Nations. Through its Permanent Representatives to the United Nations agencies in Geneva, New York, Nairobi, Paris and Rome, the ICW-CIF brings the voices of women together worldwide and advocates on mainstreaming the gender issues in all spheres of human activities. Members of the affiliated National Councils of Women attended all sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York; ICW-CIF delivered oral and written statements and organized side events, workshops and panel discussions on topics related to the CSW themes.

Currently, the International Council of Women is composed of 65 National Councils of Women representing the same number of countries. Since its last report in 2003, 5 new organizations, based in

Cambodia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Cook Islands, Monaco and Vanuatu, have joined the ICW-CIF, while one (based in Madagascar) has disaffiliated.

Through its National Councils, the ICW-CIF works to promote human rights and educate on United Nations conventions. It takes action through 5 Standing Committees working, on the basis of triennial plans of action adopted by the ICW-CIF General Assembly, to encourage National Councils to bring information and to advocate on outstanding challenges for women to their governments on issues emerging from United Nations meetings attended by the ICW Permanent Representatives. The Standing Committees covers the following areas: Status of Women, Sustainable Development, General Well-Being, Social Issues and Communication.

Currently, the ICW-CIF President, Dr. Anamah Tan, is one of the experts of the United Nations Committee on CEDAW. The ICW-CIF ensures that a large number of National Councils submits shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee and, through workshops and seminars as well as during the visits of the President to the affiliated Councils, trains its members on CEDAW reporting.

Contribution of the ICW-CIF to the work of the United Nations

The ICW-CIF values the honour of being in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and wishes to continue its reciprocal relationship with the United Nations bodies. It maintains a network on the international level namely through its accredited Permanent representatives to the United Nations Agencies and Commissions, such as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), ILO, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), WHO, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements - Habitat (UNCHS).

The ICW-CIF took part in the most important events organised in the different Headquarters of the United Nations. Besides the annual CSW, ICW-CIF representatives attended the Economic and Social Council organizational session, held in New York, 1-4 February 2005, and the substantive session held in Geneva, 3-28 July 2006, the Economic and Social Council Global Consultative Workshop, held in Turin, Italy, 10-12 March 2004, all sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and since 2006 the sessions of the Human Rights Council. The ICW-CIF team of Permanent representatives in New York, led by Iryna Kurowyckyj, attended among others the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small Island Developing states (Barbados+5), 10-14 January 2005, the 5th session of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, 24 January-4 February 2005, the 43rd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSD), 9-18 February 2005, the Civil Society Forum, 7 February 2006 on the eve of 44th session of the CSD, as well as the annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conferences, held each September, and all sessions and Pre-sessional Working Groups of the CEDAW.

Through its team in Geneva, led by Jeannine de Boccard, the ICW-CIF has brought an active contribution to the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in relationship with the ICW-CIF triennial theme (2003-2006), adopted during its General Assembly in 2003, Perth, Australia, "Women and Development: Water, Poverty and Girl Child", as well as in line with the 4th and 5th

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): "Reduce Child Mortality" and "Improve Maternal Health". A document — *A Girl's Right to Live, Female Foeticide and Girl Infanticide* – has been produced by the Working Group on the Girl Child, chaired by the ICW-CIF Permanent Representative to United Nations Geneva, Brigitte Polonovski; the book was launched at the 51st Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW), New York, 26 February-9 March 2007.

The issues related to the environment and habitat, in line with the 7th MDG — "Ensure environmental sustainability" — were one of the area to which the ICW-CIF aims at providing a significant contribution, in focusing the policy of its member organizations on this subject, as well as in participating to and organizing events dedicated namely to water and its management. ICW-CIF representatives attended the 22nd session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the UNEP, held in Nairobi, 3-7 February 2003, the 8th Special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the UNEP, held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 29-31 March 2004, the 2nd and the 3rd World Urban Forums, held respectively in Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 September 2004, and in Vancouver, Canada, 19-23 June 2006, as well as the 10th United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference on Urban and Regional Research, held in Bratislava, Slovakia, 21-23 May 2006, "*Sharing Responsibility for our region: redefining the public interest for territorial development*". Moreover, with connection to the 7th MDG, Target 10: "Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water", and following the seminar "Water: Source of Life", held during the ICW-CIF General Assembly in 2003, Perth, Australia, the ICW-CIF team in Geneva organized two symposiums on water issues: "*The International Year of freshwater, Cultural diversity and Solidarity*" (6-7 November 2003) and "*Water: Key to development*" (21 November 2005), the latter being placed in the perspective of the 4th World Water Forum, held in Mexico City, Mexico, 16-22 March 2006. The Proceedings of the both symposiums have been compiled and published by Jeannine de Boccard and Corinne Wacker, ICW-CIF Permanent representatives to United Nations Geneva.

ICW-CIF delegates have been actively involved in the work of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). They attended the meetings of the PreCom, held in Geneva in February and in September 2003, and in February 2005; the WSIS, held in Geneva on 10-12 December 2003, the WSIS Intersessional Meeting, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 15-18 July 2003, and in Tunis on 16-18 November 2005.

During the years 2003-2006, the ICW-CIF Permanent representatives to FAO, Lydie Rossini, attended all Committees, Councils, Conferences and meetings and addressed FAO's members providing information on the ICW-CIF activities and issues related to the status of women and the girl child. At the 124th Session of the FAO Council held in Rome, Italy, 23-28 June 2003, she took the floor on agenda item No 12 "Summary Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005", of which several points concern the ICW-CIF actions, such as gender discriminations, VIH/AIDS pandemic, rural development, nutrition, food safety and health security. At the 32nd Session of the FAO Conference, held in Rome, Italy, on 29 November-10 December 2003, she addressed the Commission I on the agenda item "Progress Report on Implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (2002-2007)", emphasizing the activities of ICW-CIF in this area.

Thanks to its Permanent representatives to United Nations Vienna, in particular Eleonore Hauer-Rona, the ICW-CIF keeps abreast of, and takes an active part also in the work of the UNODC and UNIDO. An important part of their work is to ensure that the rights of participation and attendance of observers, especially NGOs, at the Sessions of the Conference of the Parties, are included in the Rules

of Procedure to the Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Convention (rule 15-17). Among the meetings and conferences they attended are several Sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption (4th, 5th, 6th and 7th sessions, 2003), the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, 2-6 February 2004, the 1st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime, 2-9 July 2004, where an oral statement has been delivered on behalf of the ICW-CIF, the 60th Anniversary of the Signing of the United Nations Charta, the 49th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 13-17 March 2006, etc.

The ICW-CIF has also a strong team of Permanent representatives to the UNESCO in Paris, led by Françoise Bouteiller, working mainly on issues related to education, cultural diversity and freedom of speech, bioethics and Human Rights, with a focus on gender. They attended among others the 32nd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris, on 29 September-17 October 2003, the 47th International Conference on Education (ICE) held in Geneva on 8-11 September 2004, the 3rd Session of the intergovernmental meeting of experts on the preliminary draft convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions held in Paris on 25 May-4 June 2005, and the 33rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, 3-21 October 2005. Taking active part in the work of numerous JPC (Joint Programmatic Commissions), such as "Education for all", "Science and Ethics", "Bioethics", "Water", "Dialogue Between Cultures for Peace", "Eradication of poverty", "Education for Urban Sustainable Development", "Communication and new technologies", etc., they brought a contribution to the NGO's International Conference held in Paris on 17-19 December 2003, organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, on the topic "Education for all to ensure sustainable development", by facilitating the workshop "Women actresses of change in the fight against poverty" on micro-credit, providing the particular example of ICW-CIF member-organizations such as the National Council of Women of Benin.

The ICW-CIF, through its Permanent representatives, has delivered written and oral statements or signed joint statements with other NGOs working in similar areas. In this respect, the ICW-CIF aims at contributing to the NGO's community in order to advocate on the improvement of the status of women, by taking part in various NGO's Committees such as, in Geneva, the Special Committee on Human Rights, The CSW, The Working Group on the Girl child, the Working Group on Violence against Women, the Working Group "Women in Employment and Economic Development", the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) Committee on Ageing, the Working Group on Economic Commission for Europe under the co- leadership of Sylvie Perret and Marise Paschoud, ICW-CIF Permanent Representatives, who organized in December 2004 a one-day session devoted to the economic situation of Women in the European context, 10 years after the Beijing World Women Conference. In Vienna, the ICW-CIF is member of among others the Vienna NGO Committees on Ageing; Family, CSW, Narcotic Drugs, Committee on Peace, and on Human Rights. The ICW-CIF is also a member of the Board of the Conference of NGOs – CONGO.

One of the main working methods of ICW-CIF is the dissemination of information coming out of ICW-CIF Permanent representative's reporting of United Nations activities with the aim of encouraging the affiliated National Councils to carry out substantive work on outcomes from United Nations meeting attended.

Other relevant activities

The ICW-CIF has set up a programme of small development projects aiming at "helping women to help themselves" in practical action including literacy skills, food safety, nutrition, infant feeding, women and HIV/AIDS, clean water and sanitation, sustainable development, training women on leadership and decision making. A special development fund had been established to receive donations and manage financial aspects of the projects. Preference is given to applications which train or assist women towards economic empowerment and are related to the MDGs. Projects funded over the past three years included installation of water tanks in Papua New Guinea, training program in sewing skills, small business management, in India, funding the establishment of a recycling centre and of a small business selling goods made from recycled materials, in South Africa, residential clinic for the fitting of artificial limbs for the disabled, in India. Currently, the ICW-CIF is funding a project in South Africa, which assists 200 orphan girls who are responsible for their families. This project acknowledges the 2007 United Nations CSW Theme on the Girl Child and takes into account the first MDG: "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger". A second project is running in the FYR of Macedonia and consists of providing computer skills for unemployed women, in line with the third MDG: "Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women".

In the same field of action, the ICW-CIF works in partnership with four other women organizations, assembled in the Project Five-O, helping to implement more ambitious projects.

The ICW-CIF publishes a quarterly Newsletter (with contributions in English, French and Spanish) and has launched its new Website: www.icw-cif.org.

Financial resources

The National Councils affiliated to ICW-CIF pay annual fees, the mount of which is decided by the General Assembly.

5. Movement for a Better World

(Special; 2003)

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

The Movement for a Better World (from here on MBW) is a Catholic international organization, entirely composed of volunteers, with 650 members based in 32 nations worldwide, committed to the direct promotion of any type of activity directly or indirectly related to the building of a "better world". The main course of action of the MBW is to be identified in a long term process of spiritual and cultural formation of single and corporate consciences, in order to generate the necessary requirements and therefore create the conditions for people and communities to understand the complexity of the present situation of the world, develop the cultural instruments to react to the challenges that are posed to the future of mankind and elaborate operational projects with short, medium and long term objectives related to the transformation of society and the making of a better world. *(See page 4 for further details).*

PART TWO: CONTRIBUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

September 2003: our representatives attended the following: 56th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Conference - Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 8-10 September, 2003; September 2004: our representatives attended the following: 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference - Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 8-10 September 2004; End of June 2005: our representatives attended some DPI meetings to give our contributions on the Report of United Nations Secretary General; September 2005: our representatives attended the following: 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference - Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 7-9 September 2005; September 2006: our representatives attended the following: 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference – Unfinished business: Effective Partnership for Human Security and Sustainable Development, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 6-8 September 2006. Our representatives, being volunteers, have no possibility of attending regularly these meetings; their objective is to look for other people who could collaborate with us and assure their presence at United Nations place as often as possible.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at headquarters

- **8 September 2005:** at the offices of DPI our representatives took available materials for their study on globalisation *(see below)*.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals during the reporting period

- An international study of globalisation and its alternatives, with the aim of growing in a critical understanding of the so-called 'no-global or new global or alternative global' movement as a phenomenon in history and to spell out the implications for the life and action of the MBW as well as of other public institutions.

- An international study regarding the process of unification of the European Union, with particular attention to the implications that the process itself is having on the life of its nation members in terms of building a new political subject with the participation of the people and the promotion of a new European identity that can be considered a cultural model and mission oriented towards integration of diversities, solidarity and human promotion.

- Publication of a magazine of internal use of our members: «Sharing» (Compartiendo/Partage), in three languages.

- Pastoral projects for the renewal of parish and diocesan structures oriented to the implementation of full participation of the people not only as Catholics within the Church itself and for internal affairs only but also as citizens engaged in the social affairs of the territory in which they live. These projects are organized in three major stages. The objectives are: 1st stage:

creating new relations on a communitarian basis by bringing people together and organising a network of information that can allow them to discuss the issues of their own territory and be sensitised on all values common to the human experience; 2nd stage: promoting permanent small groups of people who get together and develop a communitarian identity and learn to confront themselves with the present day situations, inspired by those Christian values that can be considered common to other cultures and religions. 3rd stage: helping the Christian community to elaborate its own project as the result of a process of growth and gaining of a new communitarian conscience in order to be a significant presence in the territory.

- Pastoral projects dedicated to laity committed to one of the four following areas: healthcare, media and information, education and school, politics. These projects, rather than directly carrying out single activities of assistance to their targets, create an open space in which Catholic laity can gather and reflect on what specific challenges are posed to mankind at the present day in order to elaborate, from time to time, specific courses of action, which are not contained in the projects themselves. These are rather to be considered as instruments for the initial formation of Catholic laity on a long term basis.

- As for the Millennium Development Goals, see following, it is to be understood that the main goals and courses of action of the MBW are the promotion of long term processes of spiritual and cultural formation of single and corporate consciences. The direction of theses processes points towards the strengthening of the consciences of single individuals of belonging to larger bodies or wholes, therefore initiating the taking of responsibilities regarding the well being of the community itself, as well as that of other cultures and nations and the human family itself. Therefore the Movement is not directly engaged in activities relative to the Millennium Development Goals, but is rather indirectly involved as its aims are the promotion of a new planetary conscience of participation and solidarity, liberation from poverty social oppression and the promotion of human dignity, through the formation of laity, workshops, convention and mainly the projects themselves.

The organization's participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies were sparse during this period because of limited funds for international meetings outside of Rome and the demise of our New York representative. Arrangements are underway to have other members in closer proximity actively take part in these international meetings and activities to further the goals of the Movement for a Better World.